MODERN REVOLUTIONARY PEKING OPERA

THE RED LANTERN

(Selected Songs)

Revised by the China Peking Opera Troupe



A QUOTATION FROM CHAIRMAN MAO

Revolutionary culture is powerful revolutionary weapon for the broad masses of the people. It prepares the ground ideologically before the revolution comes and is an important, indeed essential, fighting front in the general revolutionary front during the revolution.

Synopsis of the Play

THE events depicted in *The Red Lantern*, a modern revolutionary Peking Opera, take place in an enemy-occupied area during the War of Resistance Against Japan.

Railway switchman Li Yu-ho, member of the Chinese Communist Party, is an experienced underground worker. His mother, Granny Li, his daughter, Tieh-mei, and he are not really from the same family. Each one comes from a working-class family of a different surname. The three generations, now a revolutionary fighting collective, were brought together in 1923 during the famous February 7th Strike launched by the workers on the Peking-Hankow Railway under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party.

Li Yu-ho accepts the Party's task of delivering a secret code to the guerrilla detachment in the Cypress Mountains. Betrayed by a renegade, he is arrested. Hatoyama, chief of the fascist gendarmerie, uses threats and blandishments in a vain effort to make him turn over the secret code. Li Yu-ho remains staunch and fearless as he struggles unflinchingly against the enemy. Whether at "dinner" or on the execution ground, he gets the better of Hatoyama and reduces him to an untenable position by dint of his dauntless courage and great wisdom. But in the end, the brutal enemy kills Li Yu-ho and his mother, Granny Li.

Tieh-mei bravely carries on the task left unfinished by the revolutionary martyrs. Únder the leadership of the Party, she together with the guerrillas and the masses, succeeds in bringing the secret code to the Cypress Mountains. During the action, the guerrillas wipe out the Japanese gendarmes, killing Hatoyama and the renegade. The revolutionary armed struggle advances victoriously.

Li Yu-ho is an outstanding representative of the working class and the revolutionary martyrs, and an indomitable proletarian hero. His brilliant life of loyalty to the Party and the people fully demonstrates the unswerving faith in communism and the death-defying revolutionary spirit of a proletarian vanguard fighter. In the play, heroic proletarian characters like Li Yu-ho, Granny Li and Tieh-mei are portrayed to perfection amidst events which vividly reflect the magnificent history of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle of the Chinese people guided by the correct line of the great leader Chairman Mao.

Note on the Selected Songs

who has brought him a secret code from a higher Party organization and asked him to deliver it to the Cypress Mountains. This aria expresses Party member Li Yu-ho's extreme warm-heartedness towards his comrade and his boundless loyalty to the Party and the revolutionary cause.

"I Will Face the Enemy with Composure, Firm as a Mountain" is sung by Li Yu-ho when he arrives at a dinner given "in his honour" by Hatoyama, chief of the Japanese gendarmerie, who plans to arrest him if he refuses to hand over the secret code. The song expresses the high revolutionary vigilance of Li Yu-ho over his foe and his heroic determination "to vanquish all enemies and never to yield".

"Brought Up by the Party to Be a Man of Steel" is sung by Li Yu-ho upon meeting his mother, Granny Li, on the execution ground. Hatoyama tries to undermine his revolutionary spirit by appealing to his "filial duty" and threatening him with death. A vanguard fighter of the proletariat, armed with Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, Li Yu-ho frustrates the enemy's trick, turning the execution ground into a battlefield. Fired with deep proletarian feelings towards the Party and the people, he conveys to Granny Li his firm determination to fight to the end for the revolution.

"My Spirit Storms the Heavens" is one of the most outstanding and stirring arias sung by Li Yu-ho. It brings out vividly his revolutionary heroism and optimism, and his lofty proletarian revolutionary spirit. On entering the execution ground his heart throbs with emotion, and a stream of thoughts rush to his mind. Without a regret for his own fate, he thinks only of the complete liberation of all mankind. He is convinced that revolutionary armed struggle, under the leadership of Chairman Mao, will develop in triumph like a single spark starting a prairie fire. With full confidence in the final victory of the revolution, he sees the brilliant vision of a future communist society.

"I Should Be Like Them" is sung by Tieh-mei. Influenced by her father and grandmother over a long period, Tieh-mei has come to understand the truth of revolution although she is only 17 years old. Particularly after hearing the story of the red lantern from Granny Li, she pledges to share her father's worries and burdens in the revolution.

"Hate and Rage Sprout in My Heart" is one of the important arias sung by Tieh-mei. She returns home overcome with sorrow after Li Yu-ho and Granny Li are killed by the enemy. The sight of the shining red lantern kindles her wrath, and bursting with rage she determines to turn hatred into strength. As successor to the red lantern, she vows to take over the task left unfinished by the revolutionary martyrs, fighting to the last drop of blood for the complete defeat of the enemy and the overthrow of the old world.

"Learn from Your Father His Loyalty, Courage and Iron Will" is one of Granny Li's main arias. After Li Yu-ho's arrest, she realizes that a fiercer struggle lies ahead. At this crucial moment she decides to tell Tieh-mei the family history, replete with blood and tears. She enjoins her granddaughter to take over the red lantern and fight on. The song describes how a revolutionary successor is cultivated by old Granny Li, a long-tested revolutionary boundlessly loyal to the Party and firmly resolved to fight the enemy to the end.

"A Debt of Blood Must Be Paid with Blood" is also sung by Granny Li. She recalls the glorious record of Li Yu-ho's fight for the revolution, encouraging Tieh-mei to learn from him so that she can march ahead along the path crimson with martyrs' blood, never forgetting class and national oppression, and keep the red lantern, handed down from generation to generation, shining for ever!

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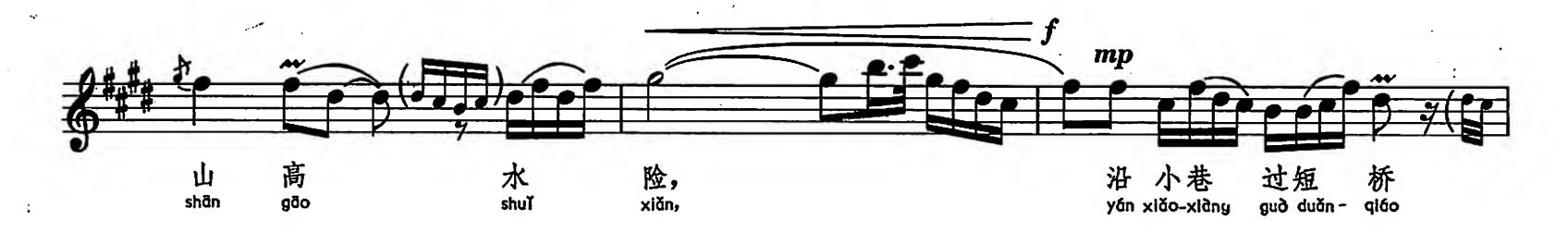
天下事难不倒共产党员 Tiān- xià Shì Nán- bù- dǎo Gòng- chǎn- dǎng- yuán

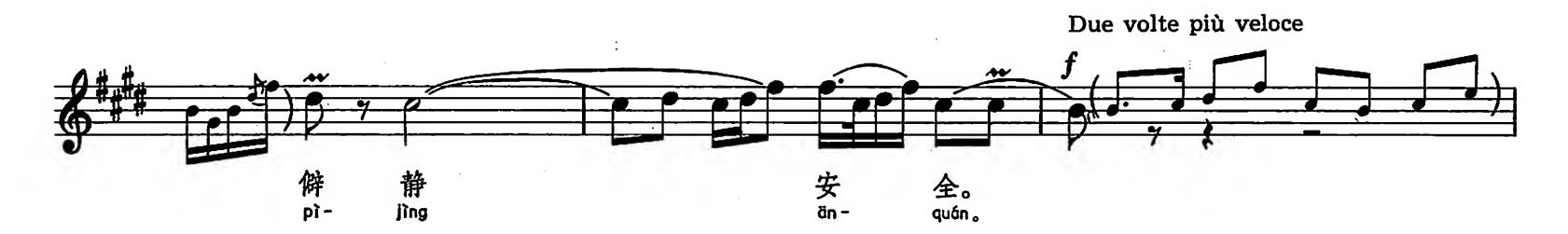
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No Difficulty in the World Can Daunt a Communist

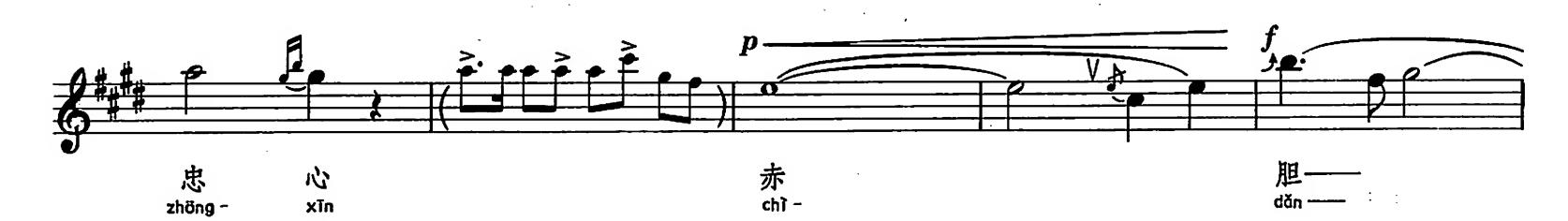
李 玉 和 唱 Lǐ Yù- hó chàng Li Yu-ho sings





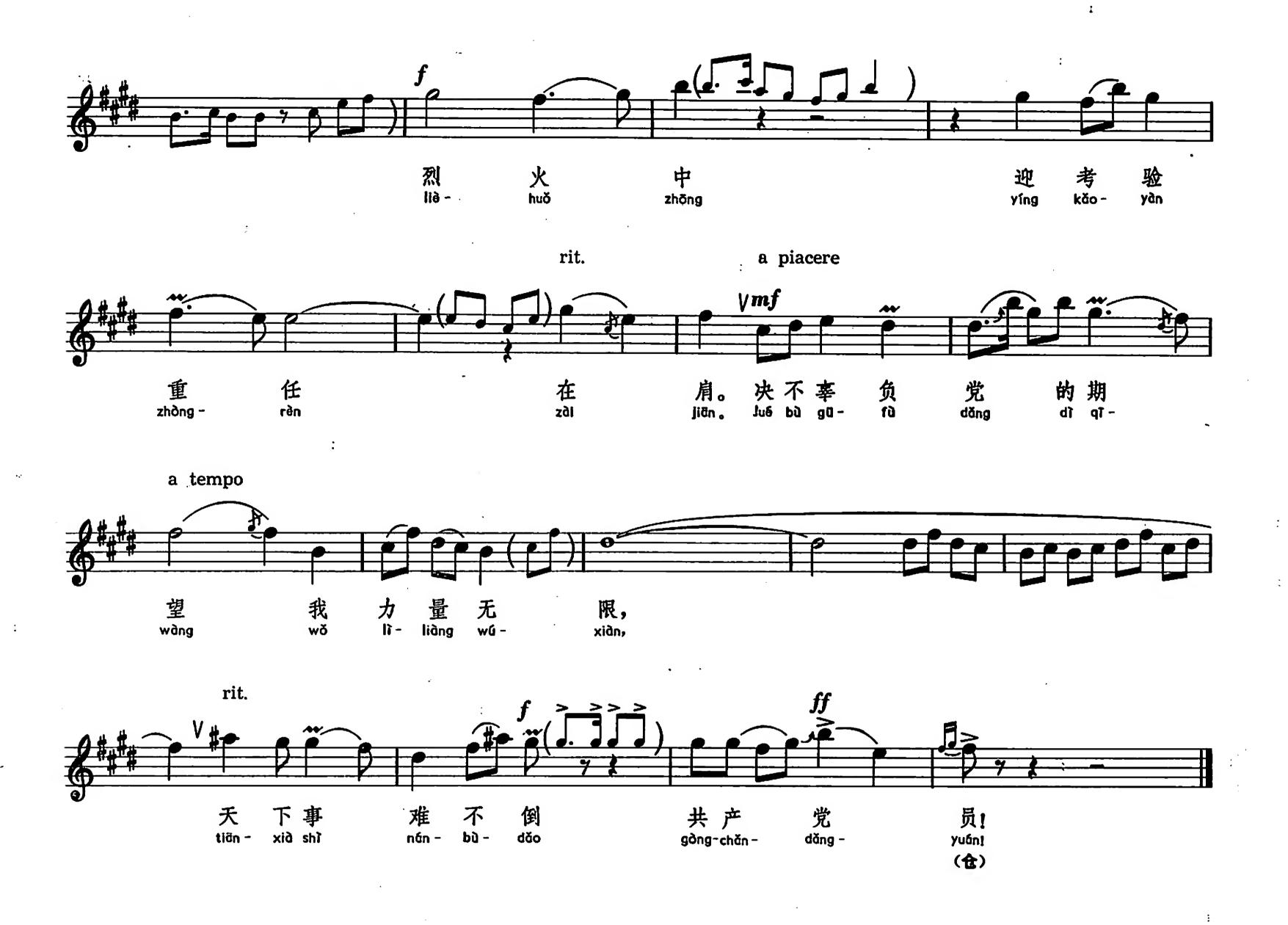












从容对敌巍然如山 Cōng-róng Duì Dí Wēi-rán Rú Shān I Will Face the Enemy with Composure,

Firm as a Mountain 李 玉 和 唱 LY Yu- hó chàng

Li Yu-ho sings





党教儿做一个刚强铁汉 Dǎng Jiào Ér Zuò Yī- ge Gāng-qiáng Tiě- hàn

Brought Up by the Party to Be a Man of Steel

李玉和唱 Lǐ Yù- hé chàng Li Yu-ho sings





1.4

雄心壮志冲云天 Xióng- xīn Zhuàng- zhì Chōng Yún- tiān

My Spirit Storms the Heavens

李 玉 和 唱 Lǐ Yù- hố chàng Li Yu-ho sings













٠.٢

做人要做这样的人 Zuò- rén Yào Zuò Zhè- yàng- dè Rén

I Should Be Like Them

铁 梅 唱 Tið- méi chàng

Tieh-mei sings





٠, ٢

仇恨入心要发芽 Chóu- hèn Rù Xīn Yào Fā- yá

Hate and Rage Sprout in My Heart

铁 梅 唱
Tiě- méi chàng
Tieh-mei sings





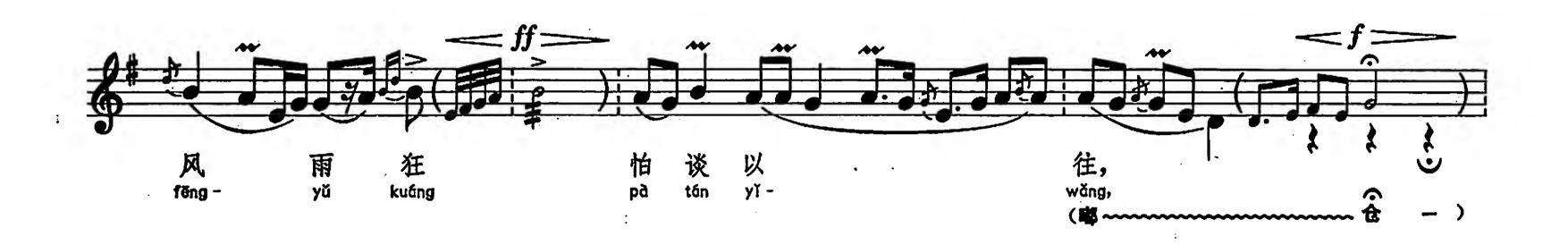


学你爹心红胆壮志如钢 Xué Nǐ Diē Xīn Hóng Dǎn Zhuàng Zhì Rú Gāng

Learn From Your Father His Loyalty, Courage and Iron Will

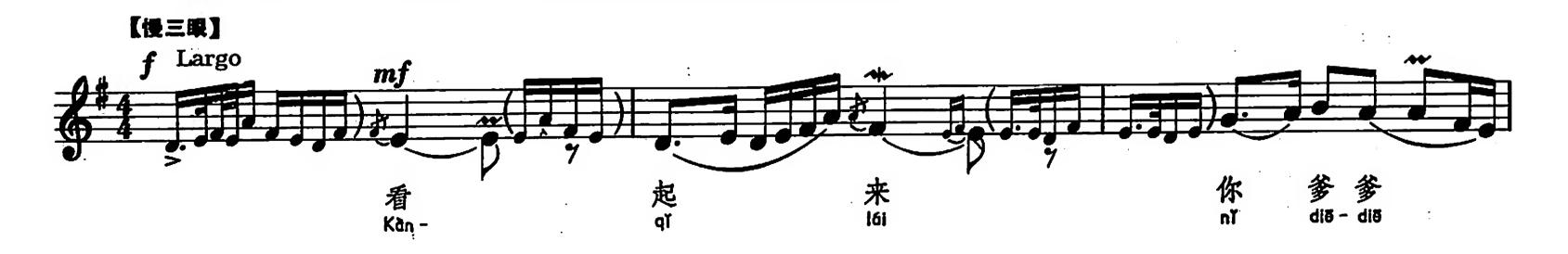
李 奶 奶 唱 Lǐ nǎi- nai chàng Granny Li sings















血债还要血来偿 Xuè- zhài Huán- yào Xuě Lái Cháng

٠. ٤

A Debt of Blood Must Be Paid with Blood

李 奶 奶 唱 Lǐ nǎi- nai chàng Granny Li sings





Explanation of Terms Used in Peking Opera Singing, in Playing Chinese Percussion Instruments and in the Musical Score

1. Pronunciation of Chinese characters appearing in the musical score:

〔二黄快三眼〕	[èrhuáng kuài-sānyăn
〔二黄原板〕	[èrhuáng yuánbăn]
〔二黄二六〕	[èrhuáng èrliù]
〔散 板〕	[sănbăn]
〔二黄导板〕	[èrhuáng dǎobǎn]
〔回 龙〕	[huílóng]
〔原 板〕	[yuánbăn]
〔慢 三 眼〕	[màn-sānyàn]
[垛 板]	[duòbăn]
〔西皮散板〕	[xīpí sănbăn]
〔摇 板〕	[yáobăn]
〔西皮导板〕	[xipí dăobàn]
〔快三眼〕	[kuài-sānyăn]
(二 六)	[èrliù]
〔快 板〕	[kuàibăn]
〔二黄散板〕	[èrhuáng sănbăn]

These terms denote various kinds of traditional melodies in Peking Opera, each of which has its own more or less fixed tune, structure, style, rhythm and timing.

- 2. Chinese percussion instruments used in the selected songs include băn, băngŭ, dàluó, náobó and xiăoluó (see illustrations).
 - 1) The sounds of percussion instruments are represented by Chinese characters in the space between staves:
 - [dà]: Beating of băngŭ with one stick.
 - [bā]: Beating of băngŭ with two sticks simultaneously.
 - [dàbā]: Beating of băngũ with two sticks alternately.
 - [dū]: Rolling of băngŭ with two sticks.
 - [duō]: Light beating of băngŭ with one stick.
 - [duōluó]: A light beat of băngŭ with one stick, followed by a heavy one.
 - [yi]: Rest.
 - [yī]: Beating of băn. 衣
 - [cāng]: Beating of dàluó alone, or of dàluó, xiăoluó and naóbó together.
 - [qing]: Light beating of dàluó alone, or of dàluó, xiãoluó and naóbó together.
 - [tái]: Beating the xiǎoluó only.
 - [ling]: Light beating of xiǎoluó.
 - [cái]: Beating the naóbó alone or of naóbó and xiãoluó together.

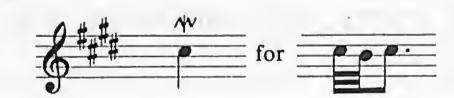
2) Rhythm for percussion instruments is indicated as follows:

- 3. In the selected songs, cymbals, a foreign percussion instrument (see illustration), are used. Its sounds are represented by the mark:
 - △: A single beat on one cymbal with a stick.
- 4. Symbols used in the musical score:

Trill: (1) "w" Upward trill



(2) " w " Downward trill

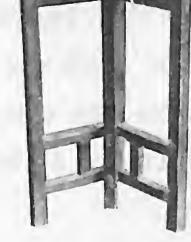


Repeat or prolong as desired.

Rest of four or more beats.)



băn (clappers)



băngŭ (time-beater)



dàluó (gong)









naóbó (small cymbals)

xiăoluó (small gong)

cymbals

Translation of the

No Difficulty in the World Can Daunt a Communist

Li Yu-ho sings

Comrade.... (speaks)

Be on guard as you go—

Mountains are high, torrents swift.

Follow small lanes and short bridges,

The quiet and safe paths.

To the revolution we offer our loyal hearts.

Shouldering the heavy task I'll stand up to any test in the fire.

Bursting with strength, I'll be worthy of the trust of the Party.

No difficulty in the world can daunt a Communist!

I Will Face the Enemy with Composure, Firm as a Mountain

Li Yu-ho sings

A poisoned arrow is hidden in the invitation card, Sudden burst of a storm means traitors lurking, I laugh at his feast spread amid swords and axes, With revolutionary righteousness in my heart, I will face the enemy with composure, firm as a mountain.

Brought Up by the Party to Be a Man of Steel

Li Yu-ho sings

Brought up by the Party to be a man of steel,
I fight the foe and never give ground.
I'm not afraid
To have every bone in my body broken,
I'm not afraid
To be locked up until I wear through the floor of my cell.

It makes my heart bleed to see our country ravaged, I burn with anger for my people's suffering. However hard the road of revolution, We must press on in the steps of the glorious dead. My only regret if I die today Is the "account" I have not settled. I long to soar like an eagle to the sky, Borne on the wind above the mountain passes To rescue our millions of suffering countrymen—Then how gladly would I die for the revolution!

My Spirit Storms the Heavens

Li Yu-ho sings

At the gaoler's blood-thirsty cry...

I stride forth from my cell.

Though heavy chains shackle me hand and foot,
They cannot fetter my spirit that storms the heavens.

That villain Hatoyama used every torture to get
the code,
My bones are broken, my flesh is torn,

But my will is firmer than ever.

Walking boldly to the execution ground, I look afar:

The red flag of revolution is raised on high,

The flames of resistance spread far and wide.

Japanese bandits, let's see how much longer you

can rage!

Once the storm is past flowers will bloom,
New China will shine like the morning sun,
Red flags will fly all over the country.
By this thought, my confidence is heightened
And my resolve strengthened.
I have done very little for the Party,
I'm worried that the code hasn't got to the mountains.
Wang's only contact was with me,
The wretch can betray no one else;
My mother and daughter are as firm as steel.

Selected Songs

Hatoyama, try and get the secret code!
You may ransack heaven and earth
But you will never find it.
Revolutionaries fear nothing on earth,
They will for ever march forward.

I Should Be Like Them

Tieh-mei sings

Granny has told me the story of the red lantern,
The words are few, but meaning is deep.
Why are my father and uncle not afraid of danger?
Because they want to save China,
Save the poor, defeat the Japanese invaders.
I realize I should act as they do,
And be a person like them.
I am seventeen, no longer a child,
I should share my father's worries.
If he's carrying a thousand-pound load,
I should carry eight hundred.

Hate and Rage Sprout in My Heart

Tieh-mei sings

I burst with anger when I think of the foe!
Repressing my rage I grind my teeth.
Using every trick to get the code,
Hatoyama has killed my granny and dad!
Biting my hate, chewing my rage,
I force them down my throat,
Let them sprout in my heart.
I'll never yield, I'll never retreat,
No tears shall wet my cheeks,
Let them flow into my heart
To nourish the bursting seeds of hatred.
Flames of rage, ten leagues high,
Will burn away this reign of the forces of darkness.

I'm prepared: arrest me, release me,
Use your whips and lash, your locks and chains.
Break my bones, you will never get the code.
Just wait, you villain Hatoyama,
This is Tieh-mei's answer!

Learn from Your Father His Loyalty, Courage and Iron Will

Granny Li sings

For seventeen storm-tossed years I've kept quiet, Several times I wanted to speak,
But I was afraid you were too young for the truth.
It's most likely your father will not return,
And granny may be jailed too.
Then the heavy burden of revolution will fall on you.
When I tell you the truth, Tieh-mei,
Don't cry, don't break down, be brave and staunch,
Learn from your father his loyalty, courage and
iron will.

A Debt of Blood Must Be Paid with Blood

Granny Li sings

In the strike those devils murdered your father and mother,

Li Yu-ho worked untiringly for the revolution; He swore to follow in the martyrs' steps, to keep the red lantern burning;

He staunched his wounds, buried the dead and went on with the fight.

Now the Japanese brigands are burning, killing and looting,

Before our eyes your dad was taken away to prison; Remember this debt of blood and tears,

Be brave and determined to settle accounts with the enemy,

A debt of blood must be paid with blood.

KEY TO CHINESE PHONETIC SYMBOLS

	C	O	NS	O	NA	N	TS
,							

Chinese Phonetic Alphabet	International Phonetic Symbol	Key
b	[þ]	speak
p	[p ⁴] ·.	peak
m	[m]	man
f	[f]	fan
- d	[d]:	steam
t	[t']	team
n	[n]	no
1	[1]	law
g	[ģ]	skill
k	[k']	kill .
h	[x]	ach (German)
j	[te]	jeer
q	[tø']	cheer
x	[6]	ship
· Z	[ts]	adze
c	[ts']	that's
s .	[s]	sound
zh	[ts]	rich (tip of tongue curved back)
ch	[tş']	chew (tip of tongue curved back)
sh	[\$]	shrub (tip of tongue curved back)
r	[2]	between English r (run) and French j (jeune)
ng	[0]	sing
y .	U I	you
w	[w]	way

VOWELS

Chinese Phonetic Alphabet	International Phonetic Symbol	Key
a	[a]	father
0	[0]	saw
e	[ə]	le (French)
ê	[ε]	les (French)
i, yi	[i]	machine
u, wu	[u]	rude
ü, yu	[y]	ü (German)

(after j, q, x, the umlaut on ü is omitted)

ai	[ai]	aisle
ao	[au]	now
ou	[ou]	know
ei	[ei]	eight

ia, ya	[ia]	Asia
iao, yao	[iau]	yowl
iu, you	[iou]	few
ie, ye	[ie]	yes
ua, wa	[ua]	waft
uai, wai	[uai]	wife
uo, wo	[uo]	woman
ui, wei	[uei]	way
üe, yue	[ye]	ü+eh
er	[ər]	err
-i (in zi, ci, si)	[1]	Prolonged z
-i (in zhi, chi, shi, ri)	[l]	Vocalized r

Vowels + n or ng

	· .	•
an	[an]	can
ian, yan	[iæn]	yen
uan, wan	[uan]	wander
üan, yuan	[yæn]	ü+an
en	[en]	omen
un, wen	[uen]	wen ·
in, yin	[in]	machine
ün, yun	[yn]	ü+n
ang	[aŋ]	bang (German)
iang, yang	[iaŋ]	young
uang, wang	[uaŋ]	wang
ong	(uŋ) ; [uŋ] .	ung (German)
iong, yong	[iuŋ]	i+ung
eng	[eŋ]	sung
ueng, weng	[ueŋ]	u+eng
ing, ying	[iŋ]	sing

THE FOUR TONES

IN the standard speech, there are four tones. The first one, marked -, is called the "upper even tone" because it is spoken high but the voice neither rises nor falls. The second, -, starts with the voice lower but ends up as high as in the first. In the third tone, -, the voice is dropped at first and then rises in rather a drawn-out way, and in the fourth, -, the voice falls from high to low.

In addition to the above, there is a "light tone", unmarked, which is pronounced as a light, quick sound.

Singing is not subject to restrictions in pronunciation of the four tones, which often change with the tune of the song.



革命现代京朝

红 灯 记

(注 段)

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